



Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An agent~~ A composition for enhancing collagen production, which comprises L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative and a fatty acid or its derivative as effective ingredients.

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1, which contains said L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative in an amount of at least 0.01% (w/w), in terms of the weight of L-ascorbic acid, to the total weight of said ~~agent~~ composition.

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1, which contains a fatty acid or its derivative in an amount of at least 0.0001 part by weight to one part by weight of said L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative, in terms of the weight of L-ascorbic acid.

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid or its derivative is derived from royal jelly.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said fatty acid or its derivative is one or more members selected from the group consisting of 10-hydroxy-2-decenoic acid, 10-hydroxydecanoic acid, decanoic acid, 2-decenoic acid, and sebacic acid.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1, which further contains one or more other ingredients selected from materials for food products, foods for special use, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, quasi-drugs, feeds, baits, and pet foods.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 6, wherein said other ingredient is one or more members selected from the group consisting of antioxidants, viscosity-imparting agents, stabilizers, excipients, fillers, pH-controlling agents, viscosity-imparting agents, sour agents, extracts, saccharides, glycosaminoglycans, sugar alcohols, amino acids, vitamins including L-ascorbic acid and derivatives thereof, water, alcohols, amylaceous substances, proteins, fibers, lipids, minerals, flavors, colors, sweeteners, seasonings, spices, preservatives, emulsifiers, and surfactants.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1, wherein said L-ascorbic acid derivative is one or more members selected from the group consisting of salts of

L-ascorbic acid, L-ascorbic acid 2-glycoside, and L-ascorbic acid 2-glucoside.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 8, wherein said L-ascorbic acid 2-glycoside contains at least L-ascorbic acid 2-glucoside.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~agent~~ composition of claim 7, wherein said glycosaminoglycan is one or more members selected from the group consisting of chondroitin, chondroitin sulfate, dermatan sulfate, heparin, heparan sulfate, keratan sulfate, hyaluronic acid, and aluronic acid.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~In a~~ food product, health food, or food for special use comprising a food material, which also comprises the ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~In a~~ cosmetic comprising cosmetic ingredients, which also comprises the ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical or quasi-drug, which comprises the ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1.

14. (Currently Amended) A feed, bait or pet food, which comprises the ~~agent~~ composition of claim 1.

15. (Currently Amended) A process for producing the agent of claim 1, which comprises a step of incorporating L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative and a fatty acid or its derivative.

16. (Original) A method for separating a fatty acid or its derivative from a raw royal jelly, which comprises the steps of:

suspending said raw royal jelly in a solvent;

separating the resulting suspension into a supernatant fraction and a precipitate fraction by centrifugation and/or filtration;

dissolving the precipitate fraction with an alkaline agent;

neutralizing the resulting solution with an acid agent; and

separating the resulting neutralized solution with a membrane to collect said fatty acid or its derivative.

17. (New) A method for enhancing collagen production, which comprises a step of administering L-ascorbic acid and/or its derivative and a fatty acid or its derivative to a living body.

18. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said fatty acid or its derivative is derived from royal jelly.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein said fatty acid or its derivative is one or more members selected from the group consisting of 10-hydroxy-2-decenoic acid, 10-hydroxydecanoic acid, decanoic acid, 2-decenoic acid, and sebacic acid.